Identification of BPL families

806. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court of India has set a deadline to identify the BPL families throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in its interim order dated 28.11.2001 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001 has directed the States to complete the identification of BPL families latest by 1st January, 2002.

(b) States-UTs have been asked to complete the task of identification of BPL families and issue of distinctive ration cards to them, if not already completed with in the stipulated period. All States-UTs have reported identification of BPL families.

Production of Sugar Containing Vitamin 'A'

†807. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted production of sugar containing Vitamin 'A' in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are contemplating to permit production of this sugar at large scale;

(c) whether Government would permit the sugar mills to raise prices of the sugar on the pretext of this sugar containing Vitamin 'A'; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) M/s. Shirpur Shetkari SSK Ltd., Shirpur, Distt. Dhule, Maharashtra have set up a Pilot Plant of one tonne per hour for production of sugar fortified with Vitamin 'A' with the financial assistance provided by the Government of India from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.